

Senate Bill 473

By: Senators Reed of the 35th, Brown of the 26th, Adelman of the 42nd, Golden of the 8th and Stoner of the 6th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the University System of Georgia, so as to provide a short title; to provide that certain students who apply for admission to member institutions of the University System of Georgia as freshman students and who graduated from certain public or private high schools in this state with a grade point average in the top 10 percent of such student's graduating class shall be automatically admitted; to authorize the Board of Regents to promulgate rules and regulations regarding such admissions; to provide that the Board of Regents and the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall develop a formula for giving extra weight to grades earned in certain classes in calculating a student's high school grade point average; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

This Act shall be known and may be cited as "Georgia's Promise."

SECTION 2.

Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the University System of Georgia, is amended by inserting new Code Sections 20-3-88 and 20-3-89 to read as follows:

"20-3-88.

(a) Beginning with those students admitted for the 2007-2008 academic year, each member institution of the University System of Georgia shall admit an applicant to the institution as a freshman student if the applicant:

(1) Graduated in one of the two school years immediately preceding the academic year for which the applicant is applying for admission from an eligible high school as defined in Code Section 20-3-519 with a grade point average in the top 10 percent of the student's high school graduating class;

(2) Is a citizen of the State of Georgia and either is a citizen of the United States or an eligible noncitizen as defined in the federal Title IV requirements;

(3) Has been a resident of this state for a period of at least two years immediately preceding July 1 of the year of his or her high school graduation; and

(4) Received a college preparatory diploma.

To qualify for admission under this Code section, an applicant must submit an application before the expiration of any application filing deadline established by the institution and must meet the qualifications of this subsection and all other nonacademic qualifications of the institution.

(b) After admitting an applicant under this Code section, the institution shall review the applicant's record and any other factor the institution considers appropriate to determine whether the applicant may require additional preparation for college-level work or would benefit from inclusion in a retention program. The institution may require a student so identified to enroll during the summer immediately after the student is admitted under this Code section to participate in appropriate enrichment courses and orientation programs. This Code section shall not prohibit a student who is not determined to need additional preparation for college-level work from enrolling, if the student so chooses, during the summer immediately after the student is admitted under this Code section.

(c) The Board of Regents is authorized to adopt rules and regulations relating to the operation of admissions programs under this Code section.

20-3-89.

The Board of Regents and the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall adopt a common weighting formula for advanced placement and international baccalaureate coursework in calculating grade point averages for purposes of implementing the provisions of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-157 and Code Section 20-3-88."

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.